

LECTURE # 24

DEALING WITH ADDICTIONS

Part 1

I. INTRODUCTION

II. EVIDENCE OF THE PROBLEM.

- A. It is estimated that _____% of US adults have been exposed to alcoholism in the family.

- B. It is a disruptive element in the family environment.
 - 1. Note that all the effects of alcohol abuse are _____, therefore there is no excuse for them.

- C. All of this should alarm, but also encourage the Church. Alarm her because of the hurt that so many are experiencing, and encourage her because there is hope. This hope is found in a right relationship with Jesus Christ and obedience to His Word.

The Church of all places should be seen as a hospital for the sick (sin-sick). It is in the Church that people are best understood cf. 2 Peter 1:3.

III. FACING THE PROBLEM.

- A. “The tremendous resources of churches generally have not been consciously directed toward helping alcoholics and their families in ways designed specifically for them.”

- B. Many in our churches have bought into the _____ idea that recovery programs are better suited than the church in helping folks overcome their addiction.

“The recovery industry is not only not a solution to the problem of addictive behaviors—it is part of the problem. It is a self-perpetuating system propped up by wishful thinking and useful lies. By turning to the recovery industry for answers, the church has turned away from real solutions” William Playfair, MD.

- C. Perhaps the church just doesn't see that the problem of addiction is no _____ than the _____ apparent problems of others in the pews.

1. Key to this is the understanding that _____ of us struggle with issues of _____ in our lives. We, like those struggling with addictions, need to see ourselves as equally in need of God's grace.
2. Armed with this understanding the Church can provide a loving community that encourages folks from the Word of God, and provides accountability to those struggling with addictions. Our goal in helping should be to see _____ and _____ cf. Galatians 6:1.

IV. THE CONTROVERSY.

- A. While the issue of understanding our true _____ condition is critical, another problem is causing deep division among Christians. Resolving the question of whether alcohol abuse is primarily a _____ or primarily a _____.

- B. If it is a disease, there is no one to _____.

“Challenging the useless folklore (alcoholism as a disease) is the first step toward understanding addiction and doing something about it” Stanton Peele.

- C. Edward Welch says, “When we go to the Bible to see what it says about alcohol, there is one point that is hard to argue: The Bible always says that drunkenness is sin.” Dr. Playfair agrees. His research finds that alcohol is primarily the result of immoral behavior cf. Duet. 21:20; Prov 23:21; 26:9; Isa 24:20; 1 Cor 5:11.

- D. Genetic Considerations

V. GOD'S OFFER.

- A. A proper, biblical diagnosis leads to _____. God offers to all a cleansing pardon upon the condition that we confess our sins and repent cf. 1 John 1:9.
- B. The need to understand the _____ and _____ power of the Holy Spirit.

Part 2**I. INTRODUCTION****II. A STRATEGY OF HOPE.**

- A. The need to understand God's _____ for the Christian life cf. 2 Cor 5:9; Matt 16:24; Rom 8:13; Gal 5:16-26; Col 3:5-6.
1. The Bible's role cf. 2 Pet 1:3-4; 2 Tim 3:16-17; James 1:25
 2. The Church's role cf. 1 Tim 3:15; 1 Thess 5:12-14; Heb 13:7, 17; Acts 20:17, 28-30
- B. The need to understand that an _____ view of God perpetuates the problem of addiction.
- C. The need to understand man's _____ nature cf. Rom 1:18ff; 3:10-12; 3:23; 5:12.
1. All believers struggle with sin in their lives, but they have no excuse for living perpetually in a state of sin cf. Gal 5:1; John 8:31b-32.
 2. We are _____ agents, not victims.

- D. The need to understand that the problem of addiction is directly related to our _____ cf. James 4:1-2.

“The starting point for taking control of your life is determining to live out your faith in Jesus Christ with passion, integrity, and intensity. He desires to rule every inch of your heart. When you live your life in submission to His rule, He is able to change you into an extraordinary man or woman” Richard Ganz.

- E. The need to understand that our daily struggles are _____ - _____ opportunities to grow into God’s kind of person cf. 2 Pet 3:18; Heb 12:5-13.

1. We are talking about _____ .

- F. The need to understand the necessity of dealing with sin _____ and _____ cf. Matt 5:27-30

1. God is very concerned about our _____, therefore we must do something about it.
2. Jay Adams gives four ways to help accomplish this: “First, we must recognize the fact that we will be tempted to repeat our sin. Secondly, we must prepare ourselves to meet and defeat temptation in the future. We get into trouble largely because we do nothing to prevent it. Thirdly, if the problem of past patterns surfacing in the future cannot be avoided, then something definitive must be done to prevent the counselee from falling into old sinful ways.... Fourthly, nothing must be spared in this process: it is radical ...”
3. The “put off” / “put on” principle cf. Eph 4:22ff. This process occurs in two steps:
 - a. putting off the old sinful _____ - _____ life, and
 - b. putting on the new manner of life characterized by righteousness and holiness.
4. Where the rubber meets the road.

III. A.A.: HELPFUL OR HARMFUL?